

**STRIVING FOR LOVE REFLECTED IN ADAM SHANKMAN'S
A WALK TO REMEMBER MOVIE (2002):
AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Nowadays, there are many media delivering message to large audience. Film is a great media to deliver a message or idea, it explains to another aspect such as origin of history, love, city, life and others. It can not be ignored that film influences people to change the way of thinking. Films are cultural artifacts created by specific cultures, which reflect those cultures, and, in turn, affect them. Film is considered to be an important [art form](#), a source of popular entertainment, and a powerful method for educating or [indoctrinating](#) citizens. The visual elements of cinema give motion pictures a universal power of communication; some movies have become popular worldwide attractions by using [dubbing](#) or [subtitles](#) that translate the dialogue.

Basically, every human being has the same purpose of her or his life. They want to be happy and can life well with other. But in fact, parts of them consider that they are better than other.

One of the examples of describing those conditions is reflected in the movie, *A Walk to Remember*, directed by Adam Shankman. Adam Shankman was born in Los Angeles, California USA, on November 27, 1964.

A Walk to Remember is a [2002 romance film](#) based on the 1999 [romance novel](#) with the same title by [Nicholas Sparks](#). The movie stars [pop singer Mandy Moore](#) and [Shane West](#). The movie was directed by [Adam Shankman](#) and produced by [Denise DiNovi](#) and [Hunt Lowry](#) for [Warner Bros.](#) The novel, written by Sparks, is set in the 1950s while the film is set in the late 1990s/early 2000s.

A Walk to Remember, one of Shankman's famous movies, talks about a love story between two teenagers, Jamie Sullivan and Landon Charter. They are from two different social background of life.

When a prank on a fellow high school student goes wrong, popular but rebellious Landon Rollins Carter (Shane West) is threatened with expulsion. His punishment is mandatory participation in various after-school activities, such as tutoring disadvantaged children and performing in the drama club's spring musical. At these functions, he is forced to interact with quiet, bookish Jamie Elizabeth Sullivan (Mandy Moore), the only daughter of their church's pastor, and a girl he has known for many years but to whom he has rarely if ever spoken. Their differing social statuses leave them worlds apart, despite their close physical proximity.

Landon has difficulty learning his lines for the spring play, so he asks Jamie to assist him. She decides to help him but under one condition: Landon must promise not to fall in love with her. He chuckles at the strange request, obviously doubting that he could ever fall in love with her.

Landon and Jamie begin practicing together at her house after school. As they spend more time together, a friendship begins to develop. Landon discovers that Jamie's wish list of everything she aspires to accomplish in life includes befriending someone she doesn't like, getting a tattoo, being in two different places at once, and making a telescope so she can see a special comet that is coming. One day, Jamie approaches Landon at his locker, where he is hanging out with some of his friends. When Jamie asks Landon if they are still on for practice that afternoon he smirks and replies, "In your dreams." His friends laugh and Landon's smirk falters as Jamie feels betrayed and embarrassed. That afternoon, Landon arrives at Jamie's house, hoping that Jamie will still agree to help him. But she refuses to talk to him; eventually she does, and asks him in a sarcastically sweet voice if

she wants to be "secret friends." She slams the door in his face when he agrees. Landon eventually learns the script by himself.

During the play, Jamie astounds Landon and the entire audience with her beauty and singing voice. Landon, clearly surprised and overcome with unexpected emotion, kisses her impulsively at the end of her key song, "Only Hope." At the play, Landon is approached by his father, who we later learn walked out on him and his mother when he was very young. When, he turns to go, his dad calls after him not to walk away. "You taught me how," he says simply, and leaves.

In the following days, Landon tries to get close to Jamie, but she repeatedly rejects him. The breaking point comes when a few of Landon's so-called friends play a malicious joke on Jamie that she lets him in. (The prank consisted of using a computer to edit Jamie's face onto a photo that was almost pornographic and putting it out on fliers, which the group then handed out.) She is about to cry in the middle of the cafeteria when Landon comes to her aid. He punches out one of his now ex-friends and literally turns his back on the group to take Jamie home. "We're through!" calls Dean, the guy Landon punched. "That's great," he says.

In his car at her house, he asks her out to dinner, but she replies that she is not allowed to date. He goes to her father in the church and asks him for permission. When her father says no, Landon apologizes for the way he has treated Jamie in the past and asks for her father to have faith in him. The man begrudgingly agrees, and Landon takes her out to dinner. At the restaurant, the audiences begin to see how far he is willing to go for her, in baby steps at first. She convinces him to dance with her.

Landon then sets out to help her accomplish a few things on her wish list. He takes her to the state line and positions her over it in just the right way. When Jamie asks him what he's doing he tells her, "You're in two places at once." Her face lights up with joy as

she realizes that Landon found a way to make her impossible dream a reality. He gives her a temporary tattoo of a butterfly, and they walk along a boardwalk. Jamie asks Landon how he could have such amazing moments and not believe. She explains her faith to him eloquently and Landon is once again clearly overcome. "I might kiss you," he says in one of the most memorable lines of the film. And he does. He then tells her that he loves her, but she doesn't reply right away. When he prompts her, all she can say is "I told you not to fall in love with me..."

As their relationship grows, Jamie's father confronts her. He tells her that her behavior is "sinful." She argues that she is in love with him, and her father looks her straight in the eye. "Then be fair to him, Jamie. Before things get worse." The audience does not immediately understand.

The couple meets up at the cemetery where Jamie goes to stargaze and they spend the night waiting for Pluto to rise. Meanwhile Landon tells Jamie that he had a star named for her, she tells him that she loves him for the first time, and he finally realizes something that he has been trying to find out for a while: at the top of Jamie's wish-list is to marry in the church where her parents were married.

One evening, Jamie finally tells Landon that she has terminal leukemia and has stopped responding to treatments. Landon is initially upset over this, but Jamie says that the reason why she didn't tell him was because she was moving on with her life and using the time she had left. She says that she was doing fine until they fell in love. Jamie starts to break down as she says to Landon, "I do not need a reason to be angry with God," and runs away.

Landon goes to his father's house and asks him to help Jamie. His father hesitates a bit, as leukemia is not exactly his specialty, and says that he needs to examine Jamie and know her medical history before he could do anything. Landon responds by leaving, angry

at his father for not being able to help. In the car on the way home, he tears up as the situation sinks in.

Eric, Landon's best friend who had also participated in the prank on Jamie, comes and tells him how sorry he is and that he hadn't understood. Landon leaves dozens of flowers on Jamie's doorstep and asks her father to tell her that he's "not going anywhere." The pair makes up soon after.

Jamie's cancer gets worse until she collapses in her father's arms. He rushes her to the hospital where he meets Landon. Landon doesn't leave Jamie's side until her father practically has to pry him away. Jamie's father sits by her and says, "If I've kept you too close, it's because I wanted to keep you longer." Jamie tells her father that she loves him so much and for the first time since her mother's death, her father breaks down in tears.

The next day, Landon comes to the hospital and sees Jamie being wheeled out of the ward. He asks Jamie what's going on and she replies by asking him to thank his father for the help. Landon asks Jamie's father what she means. He tells him that Landon's father is going to pay for private homecare for Jamie. Landon is stunned, and later in that night, he knocks on his father's front door. His father answers. Landon whispers "thank you" and his father hugs him. With all the exhaustion and fear over Jamie's situation and years of hurt about his parent's divorce on his shoulders, Landon breaks down in tears in his dad's arms.

Landon continues to fulfill various wishes on Jamie's list, such as building her a telescope so she can see a special comet that is coming. Her father, who at first didn't approve of him (but later changes his mind after seeing Landon watch over Jamie), helps out, as does Dean. Belinda, Landon's ex-girlfriend who originally proposed the prank, also apologizes. After Jamie sees the comet through the telescope, Landon proposes marriage and Jamie accepts. With the wedding, Landon has completed everything on Jamie's wish-list, and then she died months after their wedding.

Four years later, Landon visits Jamie's father and tells him he has finished college and has been accepted into medical school. He then gives Jamie's father a book that Jamie had given to him, and now he was giving it to Jamie's dad. He tells Jamie's father that he is sorry he could not grant Jamie's ambition to witness a miracle before she died. Her father replies that Jamie did see a miracle. It was him. In the end, Landon remarks that Jamie not only saved his life -- she taught him everything about life, hope and the long journey ahead. He ends his monologue by saying that Jamie and his love is like the wind. I can't see it, but I can feel it." The film ends with Landon standing on a dock, staring into the sunset and he smiles as "Cry", a song by Mandy Moore plays into a fade.

The writer chooses this movie because this movie is interesting to be analyzed. *A Walk to Remember* is a romantic movie. This movie consists of many emotional expressions. There are sadness and happiness expressions. This movie is full of emotional parts which may be able to give the audience many influences for their life to be better.

Beside that, this movie is full of themes. There are some themes which are told in this movie. It consists of the themes of love, faith, moral and spirituality. The theme of love includes how London tries to get Jamie's love and how an ordinary girl, like Jamie, can change Landon and his attitude to be better. In these parts, there are many audience consider that this movie is touchy and romantic.

The theme of faith, moral and spirituality are filled this movie. This movie tells the audience many stories of religious life. There are some settings which are located in church. This movie also tells about how to be a good person who has to respect to others. The writer also gets many inspirations from this movie.

Then, the writer wants to analyze the problem in *A Walk to Remember* by using Psychological approach. In this study, the writes has entitled: **"STRIVING FOR LOVE**

REFLECTED IN ADAM SHANKMAN'S *A WALK TO REMEMBER* MOVIE (2002): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH."

B. Literature Review

A Walk to Remember movie by Adam Shankman is an interesting movie to analyze. The research of Adam Shankman's *A Walk to Remember* is not a new thing. There are some researchers who have analyzed this movie, but the other researchers analyze another object and use another language to analyze this movie.

There is Lili Awalia (2004), in his research entitled "Landon Charter's Characteristic in Adam Shankman's *A Walk to Remember*; Psychological Approach". This research also analyzes this movie using psychological approach but the focus object of this research is different from the present research. The writer just analyzes the characteristic of Landon commonly. She does not focus on the struggle for love of Landon.

Another research is conducted by Ika Permatasari (2008) analyzes this movie and writes a research entitled "Dampak Cinta Jamie Sullivan Terhadap Kepribadian London Carter dalam Film *A Walk to Remember* karya Adam Shankman". In her research, this movie is analyzed by using Indonesian language. The object of this research is the power of love which influences to Landon's character.

From the literature review above, the present research is different from the two previous studies. This research focuses on "Striving for Love Reflected in Adam Shankman's *A Walk to Remember* Movie (2002): An Individual Psychological Approach"

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of choosing the subject above, the problems is “How is striving for love reflected in Adam Shankman’s *A Walk to Remember* Movie?”

D. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the research are as follows:

1. To analyze the movie based on its structural elements (Narrative and Technical elements).
2. To analyze the movie based on the individual psychological approach.

E. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses this research in analyzing the striving for love reflected in Adam Shankman’s *A Walk to Remember* movie based on individual psychological approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefit expected from this research is as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study will beneficial for contributing to the large body of knowledge, particularly literary studies on Adam Shankman *A Walk to Remember*.

2. Practical Benefit

This study can develop the writer’s ability in applying the psychological perspective in Adam Shankman *A Walk to Remember*.

G. Research Method

1. Types of the Study

In analyzing Adam Shankman *A Walk to Remember*, the writer uses descriptive qualitative method which is focused on the analysis of textual data.

2. Types of the Data and the Data Source

The type of data in this study is a text that consists of words, phrases and sentence. In this research, the writer uses two data sources; there are primary data and secondary data source.

a. Primary data source

The primary data source is the movie itself, *A Walk to Remember* by Adam Shankman.

b. Secondary data

Secondary data is the supporting data taken from literary books, criticism, and some articles related to the movie.

3. Object of the Study

The object of the research is the script from *A Walk to Remember* movie of Adam Shankman's.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

In this research, the writer uses library research. The data collected from the books related to the topic. The first step is watching *A Walk to Remember* movie many times to identify the problem and find the data. Then it is continued by reading the relevant theory with the subject, finally is collecting the supported data. The writer also collects and reads the script of the movie.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis used in this study is descriptive qualitative analysis the structural element of the movie and the collected data will be described and analyzed in detail through individual psychological approach.

H. Research Organization

This research paper organization of “Striving for Love Reflected in Adam Shankman’s *A Walk to Remember* Movie (2002): An Individual Psychological Approach” is as follows: *Chapter I* is Introduction, which consists of background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and the last is paper organization. *Chapter II* comprises of the Underlying theory, which presents notion of Individual Psychology, the structural elements of the movie and theoretical application. *Chapter III* is Structural analysis of the movie, which involves the structural elements of the movie; it consists of character and characterization, setting, point of view, plot, themes, *mise-en scene*, cinematography, sound, editing and discussion. *Chapter IV* constitutes Individual Psychological analysis of the personality. The data is *Chapter V* which contain of Conclusion and Suggestion.